

# ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE

## Policy | Governance

To outline the requirements in relation to the placement of election campaign signage within the Singleton Local Government Area during Federal, State and Local Government elections.

<b>Policy No:</b>	POL/1024	<b>Version:</b>	1
<b>Service Unit:</b>	Governance		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Coordinator Governance		
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	General Manager		
<b>Authorisation Date:</b>	21 June 2022	<b>Review Date:</b>	21 June 2026
<b>Minute No:</b>	101/22		

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## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Title of the Policy and Commencement Date .....	3
1.2	Purpose of the Policy .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Objective .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Objectives and Coverage of the Policy .....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Application .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Application of this Policy .....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>Definitions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Principles/Body .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1	Placement of Signs and Posters .....	4
5.2	Consent.....	4
5.3	Election Campaign Signage on Private Land or Buildings .....	4
5.4	Display of Election Campaign Signage During Early Voting .....	5
5.5	Display of Election Campaign Signage on Election Day .....	5
5.6	Enforcement and Compliance.....	5
<b>6</b>	<b>Relevant Legislation.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Document Information .....</b>	<b>6</b>
7.1	Related Documents.....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>Responsible Officer / Policy Owner .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Responsibilities .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Approval .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Monitoring .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Review Date .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Record Keeping, Confidentiality and Privacy .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Breaches and Sanctions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Document History.....</b>	<b>7</b>



# 1 Background

## 1.1 Title of the Policy and Commencement Date

The Election Campaign Signage Policy takes effect upon adoption by Council.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline requirements in relation to the placement of election campaign signage within the Singleton Local Government Area during Federal, State and Local Government elections.

Election campaign signage is generally considered temporary in nature and duration.

Political advertising on Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure is prohibited. This allows Council to remain impartial during election campaigns and ensures that all candidates have equal opportunities to display election signage.

# 2 Objective

## 2.1 Objectives and Coverage of the Policy

The objectives of this policy are to ensure that candidates and political parties understand and comply with the requirements in relation to election campaign signage, including:

- where signs must not be placed
- obtaining relevant consent
- requirements in relation to appropriate display of signage
- enforcement and compliance action.

# 3 Application

## 3.1 Application of this Policy

This policy applies to all Federal, State or Local Government election candidates and political parties campaigning within the Singleton Local Government Area.

# 4 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

Term	Meaning
Election	Means an election of any member or members of the Assembly or a periodic Council election.
Early voting centre	Means a voting centre designated by the Electoral Commissioner under section 108(4)(a) of the <i>Electoral Act, 2017</i> to be an early voting centre for the purpose of an election. This is also known as pre-poll voting.



Term	Meaning
Election day	In relation to an election means the day specified in the writ for the election as the day for the taking of the poll for the election
Candidate	A person who has nominated for election

## 5 Principles/Body

### 5.1 Placement of Signs and Posters

Election campaign signage cannot be displayed on or within land and buildings occupied, used by, or under the control or management of the Crown, NSW Government Agencies or a Council.

Signage must not be erected on:

- telephone/power poles
- trees, shrubs or plants
- street signs, traffic control signs or parking signs
- footpath areas
- parks and nature reserves
- any structures within a road reserve
- median strips, traffic islands or roundabouts
- any place that causes a sight obstruction or hazard/danger to the public.

### 5.2 Consent

Placing of election campaign signage on private land or buildings can only be undertaken with the written consent of the landowner, or if the property is owned or jointly owned by the candidate.

### 5.3 Election Campaign Signage on Private Land or Buildings

Campaign signage placed on private land or buildings must:

- a) not be more than 0.8m<sup>2</sup> in area
- b) if on the site of a heritage item or draft heritage item – not be attached to a building
- c) be displayed by or on behalf of a candidate at an election held under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918* of the Commonwealth, the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912* or the *Local Government Act, 1993* or the party (if any) of any such candidate
- d) be displayed in accordance with any relevant requirements of the Act under which the election is held



- e) be displayed only during the following periods:
  - i. 5 weeks immediately preceding the day on which the election is held
  - ii. The day on which the election is held
  - iii. 1 week immediately following the day on which the election is held
- f) be fastened securely to ensure there is no risk to safety
- g) be in good repair and condition at all times.

#### **5.4 Display of Election Campaign Signage During Early Voting**

Election campaign signage must not be displayed:

- a) within an early voting centre
- b) within 6 metres of an entrance to an early voting centre
- c) on the exterior of a building used as an early voting centre

on any day on which early voting is conducted at the early voting centre.

Election campaign signage at early voting centres will be regulated by the Electoral Commissioner, the Voting Centre Manager or any election official authorised by the Electoral Commissioner.

#### **5.5 Display of Election Campaign Signage on Election Day**

Election campaign signage must not be displayed:

- a) within a voting centre
- b) within 6 metres of an entrance to a voting centre
- c) on the exterior of a building used as a voting centre.

Election campaign signage at election day voting centres will be regulated by the Electoral Commissioner, the Voting Centre Manager or any election official authorised by the Electoral Commissioner.

#### **5.6 Enforcement and Compliance**

Council will request the immediate removal of any election campaign signage that has been placed on Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure. Failure to comply with any such request may result in removal and impounding by Council officers.

Council may undertake enforcement and compliance action, including the issue of penalty infringement notices, should the display of election campaign signage not meet the requirements of this policy.

Any required action will be carried out in accordance with Council's Enforcement and Compliance Policy.



## 6 Relevant Legislation

- *Electoral Act, 2017*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*
- *Local Government Act, 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021*
- *Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918*
- *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912*

## 7 Document Information

Related documents and reference information in this section provides a single reference point to develop and maintain site compliance information.

### 7.1 Related Documents

Related documents, listed in **Table 7-1** below, are internal documents directly related to or referenced from this document.

Number	Title
POL/10065	Enforcement and Compliance Policy

## 8 Responsible Officer / Policy Owner

Ownership of this policy rests with the Coordinator Governance.

## 9 Responsibilities

Parties or Persons	Responsibilities
Candidates and Political Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with this policy</li> </ul>
Coordinator Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor, review and provide advice in relation to this policy</li> </ul>
Regulatory Services Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake enforcement and compliance action in relation to this policy</li> </ul>

## 10 Approval

As per cover sheet.

## 11 Monitoring

This policy will be monitored by the Coordinator Governance to ensure compliance.



## 12 Review Date

This policy, once adopted, is to remain in force until it is reviewed by Council. This policy is to be reviewed approximately every four (4) years to ensure that it meets legislative requirements.

## 13 Record Keeping, Confidentiality and Privacy

This policy is to be made available for public viewing as required under the *Government Information (Public Access) 2009, NSW*.

## 14 Breaches and Sanctions

Any breaches of this Policy will be referred to the General Manager for appropriate action.

## 15 Document History

The below table provides a summary of changes and amendments to this document.

Version.	Date Amended	Author	Comments (e.g. reasons for review)
1	03/05/2022	L Britton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New Policy.</li></ul>

